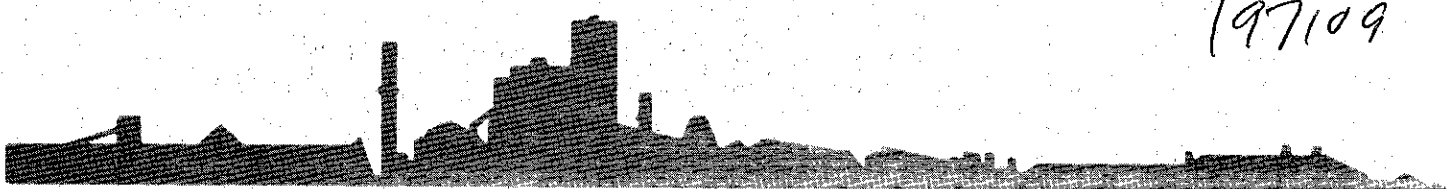


197109



**Ciment
Québec**
Inc.

145, BOULEVARD CENTENAIRE, ST-BASILE
COMTÉ DE PORTNEUF, QUÉBEC, CANADA G0A 3G0
TÉLÉPHONE : (418) 329-2100
TÉLÉCOPIEUR : (418) 329-3436

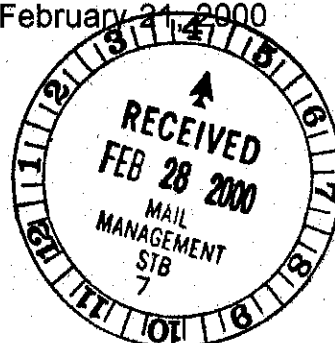
St-Basile, February 21, 2000

Mr. Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

RECEIVED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

Part of
Public Record



Dear Sir:

CIMENT QUEBEC INC. is a CEMENT MANUFACTURING company that is a major user of rail service in the U.S. and Canada. The purpose of this letter is to comment on the issues to be discussed on March 8th, 2000 in Ex Parte 582.

We encourage the Surface Transportation Board to focus on whether the proposed CN-BNSF combination is good for shippers, not on potential downstream effects. The CN-BNSF combination should be judged on its merits and if other carriers propose mergers, then these cases ought to be evaluated on their merits.

The timing of the proposed CN-BNSF combination is not the central issue for our company. Our concern is service. Recent mergers have failed on service, not because of timing. Accordingly, the Surface Transportation Board should focus on ensuring that CN-BNSF combination, and any other future mergers, will deliver service.

The Surface Transportation Board has a comprehensive process to evaluate railroad transactions and protect the public interest. It should fairly evaluate the CN-BNSF combination according to that process. Do not let other railroads use the Surface Transportation Board process to protect themselves and not shippers.

Sincerely,


Jean Lebrun
Distribution & Transportation Director
CIMENT QUEBEC INC.



AVEC LE
BÉTON, ON FAIT
DU CHEMIN

